

**NH Department of Safety  
Fire Protection Certification Advisory Committee  
Meeting February 1, 2006**

Meeting commenced at 9am and members present were: Lawrence Thibodeau, Richard Driscoll, Chris Burns, Steve Mango, Len Daniels and John Mooney

The meeting began with Lawrence Thibodeau reviewing the December 8 minutes.

Len Daniels pointed out and corrected a typographical error in Saf-C 1204.02 (a) (3) should read: "A technician making application for engineered or pre-engineered fixed fire extinguishing system installer and service technician endorsement shall be certified by NAFED (National Association of Fire Equipment *Distributors*)."

Saf-C 1204.02 (a) (6) should read "IMSA" not "*ISMA*".

The Minutes were accepted and a review of Initial proposal commenced:

Regarding the required hours to qualify to test individuals for the Fire Alarm and Detection Systems, Steve Mango said at his Alarm Association meeting that they recommended 2000 hours (one year) for 'Installer' and 4000 hours (two years) for 'Technicians'.

Lawrence Thibodeau – What is the difference between an installer and technician?

Len Daniels: Technicians require more knowledge for troubleshooting, inspections and code knowledge and an installer runs off plans.

Chris Burns: Does one skill level overlap another and how should it be broken up?

Richard Driscoll: He can see a definite difference in skill levels when he visits a job site in his town.

Len Daniels: For Fire Suppression Systems and portable Extinguishers, Massachusetts just tests for one skill level.

John Mooney: The same applies to Vermont and Rhode Island. Maybe each discipline should contact their particular fields certifying agency and see how they break it down.

Steve Mango: Maybe his field can look at a two tiered individual qualification and someone working in the 'Firm' should hold the higher of the two.

Lawrence Thibodeau: That would be the 'Responsible managing employee'.

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Steve Mango: And if there is only one level of individual qualification, we should take the higher of the two requirements. But then breaking it into two categories will give individuals a chance to break into the field.

John Mooney: Asked about NICET testing for Fire Alarms and Detection and how do they differ from Industry organizations who also test individuals.

Chris Burns: All NICET does is use relevant NFPA codes for testing.

Lawrence Thibodeau: We are at the point where we need to define these criteria.

The discussion then centered around Continuing Education and length of certifications for individuals and firms:

Chris Burns: Continuing education requirements should follow the code cycles (every three years).

John Mooney: If the Fiscal Impact Survey allows, this is another good reason why the life cycles of recertification of individuals should follow the code cycles and be done every three years.

Steve Mango and Len Daniels agreed with this assessment.

Len Daniels pointed out that he has no problems with the Firm being recertified annually since the State Fire Marshals Office should have the firms Certificate of Insurance on file and updated annually.

Lawrence Thibodeau: If the 'Responsible managing Employee' leaves the employ of the Firm, there should be some type of mechanism to notify the State Fire Marshal.

Steve Mango: What is the status of the Fiscal Impact Survey?

Lawrence Thibodeau: The results of the Fiscal Impact Survey will help determine the length of the certificate.

Richard Driscoll: This needs to be self supporting and simple as possible to work.

John Mooney: That is why if the money allows, a 3 year individual certificate to coincide with code cycles and continuing education would be more efficient and less cumbersome to manage.

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Next topic discussed was the detection and control panels for fire suppression systems.

John Mooney asked if the releasing panels for fire suppression systems, which serve not only to release suppression agents but also as detection and control for the system, will fall under 'Fire Alarm and Detection Systems' certification guidelines? John felt this should be addressed as it could lead to misinterpretations after the certification processes are implemented. He did say the fire suppression cylinders and piping network and the releasing panel are two separate modules that a technician must be trained and certified by the manufacturer for both components.

Len Daniels: Even though these releasing panels are similar to alarm panels, they are listed by UL as a releasing panel.

Chris Burns: he would research NFPA-72 to see if releasing panels are addressed.

Len Daniels showed the committee an example of a smoke detector not properly serviced and was in non-working order. This drives home the point the importance of certification.

Len Daniels: Should the committee begin work on an 'Appendix' so we can define criteria for site visits by the Fire Marshal, etc.

Steve Mango: We may want to stay away from an Appendix as it can bog down the process.

Larry Thibodeau: Before adjourning, in order to move the process along for the next meeting we will need:

- 1) Robert Farley to bring results of Fiscal Impact Survey to meeting
- 2) For all disciplines either to e-mail to Robert Farley or bring to meeting a reworking of language/criteria for 'Qualifications' on Saf-C 1204

Next meeting: Weds, March 1 9AM and Aprils meeting (because of schedule conflicts) will be Weds, March 29 9AM

Chris Burns moved to 'adjourn'. Steve Mango seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Mooney....Secretary